Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts
to Consider International
Cooperative Measures to Detect and
Identify Seismic Event

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PROGRESS REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ON THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS TO CONSIDER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE MEASURES TO DETECT AND IDENTIFY SEISMIC EVENTS

1. The Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Cooperative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, initially established in pursuance of the decision taken by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament on 22 July 1976, held its thirty-eighth formal session from 21 to 25 March 1994, in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ola Dahlman of Sweden. This was the thirtieth session of the Group, convened under its new mandate by the decision of the Committee on Disarmament at its 48th meeting on 7 August 1979.

2. The Ad Hoc Group is open to all member States of the Conference on Disarmament. It is also open on a standing basis to all non-member States which have been invited upon their request by the Conference on Disarmament to participate in its work. Accordingly, scientific experts and representatives of the following member States of the Conference on Disarmament participated in the session: Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Republic of, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

3. Scientific experts and representatives from the following non-member States of the Conference on Disarmament participated in the session: Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Spain and Switzerland.

4. Following a request by the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts finalized a report to summarize the knowledge and experience on the upcoming GSE Third Technical Test (GSETT-3). A specific request was for an elaboration on:

- The overall concept of GSETT-3.

- The function and components of the system.

- Matters of organization and cost.

This report has been presented to the Ad Hoc Committee and is provided to the Conference on Disarmament as document CD/1254. The report was presented to the Ad Hoc Committee by Dr. Ola Dahlman. Experts from the Group of Scientific Experts gave presentations to the Ad Hoc Committee's Working Group I on Verification in their national capacities. The experts and subjects covered were Dr. Peter W. Basham (Canada) on seismic techniques, Dr. Frode Ringdal (Norway) on GSETT-3, Dr. Steven R. Bratt (United States) on the GSETT-3 International Data Centre, and Dr. Heinrich W. Haak (Netherlands) on organization and cost.

5. The Ad Hoc Group received and appreciated a briefing from the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban Working Group I on Verification.

6. The Ad Hoc Group noted with appreciation the convening of an informal technical workshop in Tokyo, Japan during 14-16 March 1994. The purpose of the workshop was to contribute to the development of GSETT-3. Twenty-three experts from 21 countries attended the workshop.

7. The Ad Hoc Group suggests that its next session, subject to approval by the Conference on Disarmament, should be convened from 8-19 August, 1994, in Geneva. This session will be devoted to further planning and preparations for GSETT-3 and responding to requests from the Ad Hoc Committe and its Working Group I on Verification for specific tasks of a technical and scientific nature.